

## **Minutes of October 10<sup>th</sup> EAC Meeting**

The Allentown EAC met on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 starting at 5:15 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Conference Room of Allentown City Hall.

EAC members present: David Keshl, Marissa Altmann, Tinku Khanwalkar

City officials present: Ann Saurman, Lindsay Taylor

Non-EAC members present: Janet Keshl, Mike Renneisen

- The minutes of the September EAC meeting were approved.
- Marissa was voted in as Secretary.
- The EAC is still in need of new members. Vacancies were mentioned at the last City Council meeting. Any pending applications or re-approvals need to be put on the agenda.
- Lindsay gave a report on Allentown City Parks.
  - Steven's Park - Design process is finished, no questions or issues have emerged for the EAC.
  - Cedar Beach Pool - Changes needed to be made for the design as a result of its location on the floodplain. They are in the process of seeking approval for a berm to prevent some flooding, which will require EAC input. The pool will be open on Memorial Day Weekend with a celebration.
  - Jordan Pool - Basic design is finished, but not the construction specifications. The change order is to increase the thickness of the pool. The budget will need to change as a result of the unexpected issues with Cedar Beach Pool.
  - Spray parks being considered for Fountain Pool and Irving Pool. The Irving Pool area may have other potential purposes (parking, trails, others)
  - Dog Park - EAC was providing input. Parks is currently surveying the parking lot. The project will be phased: Phase I is a simple riparian buffer, Phase II would be a more extensive buffer with rain gardens (best management practices). Funding is a concern for reaching Phase II of the project.
  - Signage for environmental education would contribute to the buffer areas and rain gardens. The EAC will work with Parks to develop some materials including simple signs for Cedar Beach, and a more advanced version for other areas.

- Marissa made a motion to lead a brainstorming discussion of ideas for signage at the next EAC meeting which the EAC could then provide to the Parks Department in early 2017. Tinku Khanwalkar seconded the motion and it was **APPROVED**.
  - Parks is looking to complete Master Plans and issue requests for proposal for four parks: Velania, Percy Ruhe, Franklin and Lehigh Canal. Members of the EAC will continue to provide some feedback.
  - Marissa will be the EAC point of contact for the Dept. of Parks and Rec.
- Ann gave a presentation on the work of the Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste
  - The City has been quarantined for the Spotted Lantern Fly. There are educational materials available to inform people to grind mulch, not take firewood outside of the city. The goal of the Bureau is to have all mulch ground up prior to May 1st to destroy any egg sacs that may be present. Fliers may be distributed in the water bill, school tax mailing, or other mailing. Dave Keshl will contact Jennifer McKenna of the Allentown Office of Compliance to see about sending out the flier that Ann has designed.
  - Overall the single stream program has increased the amount of recycled materials and saved the city money. An RFP has been put out for a new 5-year contract, and bidders are being evaluated.
  - New, more durable recycling bins are available when the old ones break. 11,000 were purchased for this year, and 15,000 have been budgeted for 2017.
  - Electronics recycled through Electronics Recycling International, which charges per pound. There is a 2x/month drop-off opportunity.
  - The Bureau oversees Animal Control, which has standard blanket orders for rabies vector species. The City directs individuals to wildlife management/animal control businesses. There are no workshops or capacity-building opportunities. About two years ago they distributed press releases to educate people about feral cats and vector species. Allentown has no Wildlife Management Plan. Marissa sent Ann a draft of the WMP she wrote for NYC.
- The EAC will submit Randy's article to Adventure Allentown for the Spring issue. Lindsay will report when the submission deadline is.
- The EAC will work to move Scott's bird strike report forward quickly to the newly re-staffed Planning Department and Dept. of Community and Economic Development. There is a new head of building standards (Carmen Jugata) and Shannon Callouri is the Director of Planning; Michael Walker is the new head of Community and Economic Development. David Keshl agreed to contact Michael Walker to attend the November EAC meeting.
- Marissa has been reviewing sustainability strategies and guidelines for buildings in Allentown and is pursuing finding a non-governmental supporter of a certification/seal of approval project,

that the City can then sign on to, and would provide capacity for the City that they can then use to develop tax incentives or zoning ordinances.

- Tinku suggested that Dave Keshl could consider being the EAC liaison for the Department of Public Works.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.